

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 17-22 are outstanding in the application. Claim 22 has been allowed.

Claim 17 and dependent claims 18, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(d) as being anticipated by Boccalon et al (U.S. 4,832,990). The language preceding the rejection refers to section 102(b), and the applicant understands that the Examiner intended the rejection to be made under section 102(b). The applicant's remarks and amendments are responsive to that understanding, and the applicant requests clarification if that interpretation is not correct.

Claim 17 is amended herewith to add a limitation reciting that the borate ester comprises an amine functional group. Support for this amendment is found in the application at, for example, page 7, lines 9-10. This amendment puts claim 17 in condition for allowance, since nowhere does Boccalon teach or fairly suggest the use of a borate ester with amine functionality. In fact, the skilled artisan reading Boccalon would be led away from the use of borate esters with amine functionality, for the following reason. In column 1 at lines 20-34, Boccalon presents a problem that his invention is designed to overcome, namely that

"...the chemical incompatibility between the non-polar polyolefin and the surface of the substrate, having a strongly polar nature, does not allow the polymer and the substrate to come into an intimate contact with each other. The polymer in the molten state is indeed unable to wet the substrate, thus the necessary condition for strong adhesive bonds to be formed being not complied with."

Thus the skilled artisan reading Boccalon would understand that a nonpolar surface is desired. Indeed, none of the borates that Boccalon either teaches or suggests has a polar substituent such as the amine functionality recited in amended claim 17. Thus, not only does Boccalon not teach the use of amine functionality, his disclosure teaches generally away from it. Consideration and early allowance of amended claim 17 are therefore earnestly solicited.

The applicant traverses the rejection of claim 18, and notes that Boccalon does not teach or fairly suggest the use of monoethanolamine borate, monoisopropanolamine borate, or mixtures thereof. The applicant notes that the Examiner has correctly used similar reasoning to find claim 19 to be allowable (if written in independent format). The applicant also notes that claim 18 is dependent from claim 17, which the applicant believes to be in condition for allowance. For either or both of these reasons, the applicant requests withdrawal of the

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rejection and allowance of claim 18. Claims 20 and 21 also depend from currently amended claim 17, and are therefore now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim 19 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has found it allowable if written in independent format. Claim 19 has now been amended to stand as an independent claim, and the applicant therefore requests allowance.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 2nd ¶, for reciting a method. Claim 21 has now been amended to recite a composition, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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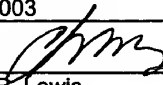
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Christopher R. Lewis